

233 South Wacker Drive Suite 800, Sears Tower Chicago, IL 60606

Staff Contact:
Russell J. Pietrowiak
312-386-8798 (voice)
312-386-8799 (fax)
www.chicagoareaplanning.org

Human Services Committee Minutes from Monday April 14th, 2008

In Attendance:

Members:

Phil Smith DuPage County Community Services

Tammy Wierciak Metropolitan Mayors Caucus/Council of Mayors

Jim Lewis Chicago Community Trust
Lorrie Lynn United Way of Metro Chicago

Jacky Grimshaw CNT

Bob Gleeson Northern Illinois University

Jay Ciavarella RTA

Guest:

Virginia Chandler Metra

Pat Hayden Age Options

Joe Voccia RTA
Elsa Gutierrez CTA
Martin Jablonski Landmark

CMAP Staff:

Russell Pietrowiak

Bob Dean

CMAP Staff

CMAP Staff

Jon Hallas

CMAP Staff

Andrew Williams-Clark

Shana Alford

CMAP Staff

CMAP Staff

CMAP Staff

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1.0 Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves

2.0 Approval of March minutes.

The minutes for the March meeting were approved.

3.0 Comments from the Vice Chair

There were no comments.

4.0 ADA Design Workshop (Tom Murtha)

Tom Murtha reported that ADA Design workshops were held at CAT's in 2005 and there were two additional workshops in 2006 hosted at the City of Chicago. There have been recent changes in regulations guiding accessibility for pedestrians regarding barriers on transport. The goal is to host similar workshops

this year at similar organizations. The workshops will go through public right-of-way accessibility practice so that design, construction, and operations in your community, as well as local ADA Transition Plans, can be appropriately updated. The target audience is local, state, federal, and consulting engineers and planners with responsibility for designing and/or building pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way; urban designers; public officials; and interested citizens. Design professionals working in the public right-of-way will be given priority for early registration. Registration is limited to 35 participants.

5.0 Comprehensive Regional Plan

5.1 Aging Snapshot Draft Report

The committee decided that they did not need to review this item. (Jon Hallas & Russell Pietrowiak)

5.2 Human Services Indicators Presentation (Andrew Clark)

Andrew Clark did a recap of the previous presentation to the committee which focused on a movement toward a national indicators project and discussed how CMAP will create regional indicators, supporting the Regional Comp Plan, in partnership with the Chicago Community Trust. A list of preliminary indicators was previewed by the committee. The most recent list of indicators was determined by surveying the national award-winning indicator projects and through discussions with regional experts.

The focus for the current presentation was to discuss some of the indicators categories. Four categories were discussed: health, civic involvement, education, and safety & security. Andrew Clark stated that the expectation is that CMAP will continue to converse with experts in the fields related to themes to collaborate on indicators; but he wanted the committee to at least agree on the indicators and how they are grouped. Andrew Clark discussed each theme separately and the indicators that corresponded to the themes. The committee actively participated, recommending the addition of some indicators and asking questions about other indicators that were presented.

Bob Gleason asked whether or not data will be developed by demography and Andrew Clark stated that the newly hired data consultants will be able to determine what data is available and this will be reported back to the committee.

Additionally Bob Gleason made the point that indicators should also be considered assets that exist within society. For example, if measuring health, then health institutions should be an indicator, which are assets in some communities, while not in others. Also, it was agreed that widespread indicators of social and economic change within a region are important and should be measured.

Phil Smith expressed concern on the number of indicators, making the statement that there are currently too many. He also stated that indicators are sometimes difficult for the public to understand, for example "years of life lost". Andrew Clark responded by stating that one goal of developing indicators is to develop the best data for the region in-house (CMAP) that will be used for the website and scenario construction for modeling projects. Therefore, only the most useful and significant indicators for the region will be used.

Russell Pietrowiak mentioned that he along with Candace King and Phil Smith will be attending the upcoming planning conference in early May focused on human service planning strategies and indicators, both local and regional.

5.3 Scenario Construction for the Regional Comprehensive Plan

The only updates from Bob Dean was that there will be a new version of vision statements in the next 2 weeks and also for the committee to expect to have options available on how to update scenario construction soon.

6.0 JARC/New Freedom Discussion (RTA Staff: Joe Voccia)

There has been a call for projects and so far 11 applications have been reviewed since January 2008. Regarding outreach, there was an open house at RTA and Will County hosted a couple of meetings. The program received federal funds which were approved in October 2007 for the HSTP (Human Services Transportation Plan) in the amount of \$5.6 million, which doesn't include funding for 50% matching programming. At the upcoming meeting on JARC and New Freedom, recommendations will be presented on how to improve the criterion for the next round of applicants. The committee has 2 members from RTA staff, 2 members from CMAP staff, and 1 member from the IDOT staff.

A list of existing criteria was distributed to committee members for their review. It was stated that there are a few redundancies that may be eliminated in the criteria in the future. He encouraged anyone from the human services committee to reach out to him before May 1st, if they had any suggestions. The RTA is restructuring its existing and new technical assistance and funding programs. This summer the RTA will be unveiling four coordinated programs that are consistent with the legislative mandate and our updated Strategic Plan. Two of the programs will provide funding for transit operating and capital projects (JARC/NF and ICE) and two will provide funding for planning studies and initiatives (Community Planning and Subregional Planning). Each program will have criteria that are consistent with the RTA Strategic Plan.

7.0 Next Meeting: May 12th, 2008

8.0 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.